

# MIN

2. Gay has improperly made it a substantive.  
Here shall the pencil bid its colours flow,  
And make a miniature creation grow. *Gay.*
- MINIKIN. *adj.* 1. Small; diminutive. Used in slight contempt. *Rogers.*  
Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd,  
Thy sheep be in the corn;  
And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,  
Thy sheep shall take no harm. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
- MINIM. *n. f.* [from *minimus*, Lat.] A small being; a dwarf.  
Not all  
Minims of nature; some of serpent-kind,  
Wond'rous in length, and corpulence, invol'd  
Their snaky folds, and added wings. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
2. This word is applied, in the northern counties, to a small fort of fish, which they pronounce *menim*. See MINNOW.
- MINIMUS. *n. f.* [Latin.] A being of the least size.  
Get you gone, you dwarf,  
You minimus of hind'ring knot-grass made;  
You bead, you acorn. *Shaksp. As You Like It.*
- MINION. *n. f.* [*mignon*, French.] A favourite; a darling; a low dependant; one who pleases rather than benefits. A word of contempt, or of slight and familiar kindness.  
Minion, said she; indeed I was a pretty one in those days;  
I see a number of lads that love you. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
They were made great courtiers, and in the way of minions, when advancement, the most mortal offence to envy, stirred up their former friend to overthrow them. *Sidney.*  
One, who had been a special minion of Andromanas, hated us for having disposed of him of her heart. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Go rate thy minions;  
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms  
Before thy sovereign. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
- MINIONS. *adj.* [from *minium*, Latin.] Of the colour of red lead or vermilion.  
Some conceive, that the Red Sea receiveth a red and minious tincture from springs that fall into it. *Bacon.*
- TO MINISH. *v. a.* [from *diminish*, minus, Latin.] To lessen; to lop; to impair.  
Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task. *Exod. v. 19.*  
They are minished and brought low through oppression. *Psal. cvii. 39.*
- Another law was to bring in the silver of the realm to the mint, in making all clipped, minished, or impaired coins of silver, not to be current in payments. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
- MINISTER. *n. f.* [*minister*, Latin; *ministre*, Fr.]  
1. An agent; one who is employed to any end; one who acts not by any inherent authority, but under another.  
You, whom virtue hath made the princeps of felicity, be not the minister of ruin. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Rumple thy belly full; spit fire, spout rain,  
Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;  
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness:  
But yet I call you servile ministers,  
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd  
Your high-engender'd battles, 'gainst a head  
So old and white as this. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
Th' infernal minister advanc'd,  
Seiz'd the due victim. *Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.*  
Other spirits govern'd by the will,  
Shoot through their tracks, and distant muscles fill;  
This sovereign, by his arbitrary nod,  
Restrains or sends his ministers abroad. *Blackmore.*
2. One who is employed in the administration of government.  
Kings must be answerable to God, but the ministers to kings, whose eyes, ears, and hands they are, must be answerable to God and man. *Bacon.*
3. One who serves at the altar; one who performs sacerdotal functions.  
Epaphras, a faithful minister of Christ. *1 Col. i. 7.*  
The ministers are always preaching, and the governors putting forth edicts against dancing and gaming. *Addison.*  
The ministers of the gospel are especially required to shine as lights in the world, because the distinction of their station

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- renders their conduct more observable; and the presumption of their knowledge, and the dignity of their office, gives a peculiar force and authority to their example. *Rogers.*
4. A delegate; an official.  
If wrongfully  
Let God revenge; for I may never lift  
An angry arm against his minister. *Shaksp. Rich. II.*
5. An agent from a foreign power, without the dignity of an ambassador.  
To MINISTER. *v. a.* [*ministrare*, Latin.] To give; to supply; to afford.  
All the customs of the Irish would minister occasion of a most ample discourse of the original and antiquity of that people. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
Now he that ministereth seed to the sower, both minister bread for your food and multiply your seed sown. *2 Cor. ix.*  
The wounded patient bears  
The artist's hand that ministers the cure. *Ottway's Orphan.*
- TO MINISTER. *v. n.*  
1. To attend; to serve in any office.  
Certain of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, to bring them in and out by tale. *1 Chron. ix. 28.*  
They which minister about holy things, live of the things of the temple. *1 Cor. ix. 13.*
- At table Eve  
Minister'd naked, and their flowing cups  
With pleasant liquors crown'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*
2. To give medicines.  
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd,  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain? *Shak. Macb.*
3. To give supplies of things needful; to give assistance; to contribute; to conduce.  
Others ministered unto him of their substance. *Luke viii. 3.*  
He who has a soul wholly void of gratitude, should set his soul to learn of his body; for all the parts of that minister to one another. *South's Sermons.*  
There is no truth which a man may more evidently make out than the existence of a God; yet he that shall content himself with things as they minister to us pleasures and passions, and not make enquiry a little farther into their causes and ends, may live long without any notion of such a being. *Locke.*  
Those good men, who take such pleasure in relieving the miserable for Christ's sake, would not have been less forward to minister unto Christ himself. *Atterbury.*  
Fasting is not absolutely good, but relatively, and as it ministers to other virtues. *Smalridge's Sermons.*
4. To attend on the service of God.  
Whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering. *Rom. xii. 7.*
- MINISTERIAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.]  
1. Attendant; acting at command.  
Understanding is required in a man; courage and vivacity in the lion; service, and ministerial officiousness, in the ox. *Bacon's Vulgar Errors.*
- From effences unseen, celestial names,  
Enlight'ning spirits, and ministerial flames,  
Lift we our reason to that sovereign cause,  
Who blest'd the whole with life. *Prior.*
2. Acting under superior authority.  
For the ministerial officers in court there must be an eye unto them. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*  
Abstinence, the apostle determines, is of no other real value in religion, than as a ministerial cause of moral effects; as it recalls us from the world, and gives a serious turn to our thoughts. *Rogers's Sermons.*
3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the ecclesiastics or their office.  
These speeches of Jerom and Chrysostom plainly allude unto such ministerial garments as were then in use. *Hooker.*
4. Pertaining to ministers of state, or persons in subordinate authority.  
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [*ministerium*, Lat.] Office; service. This word is now contracted to *ministry*, but used by Milton as four syllables.  
They that will have their chamber filled with a good scent, make some odoriferous water be blown about it by their servants mouths that are dextrous in that ministry. *Digby.*
- This temple to frequent  
With ministeries due, and solemn rites. *Milton, b. xii.*
- MINISTRAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Pertaining to a minister.
- MINISTRANTS. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Attendant; acting at command.  
Him thrones, and pow'rs,  
Princedom, and dominations ministrant,  
Accompany'd to heav'n-gate. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*  
Ministrant to their queen with busy care, *Pope.*  
Four faithful handmaids the soft robes prepare.

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- MINISTR'ATION. *n. f.* [from *ministrare*, Latin.]  
1. Agency; intervention; office of an agent delegated or commissioned by another.  
God made him the instrument of his providence to me, as he hath made his own land to him, with this difference, that God, by his ministr'ation to me, intends to do him a favour. *Taylor's living holy.*
- Though sometimes effected by the immediate fiat of the divine will, yet I think they are most ordinarily done by the ministr'ation of angels. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
2. Service; office; ecclesiastical function.  
If the present ministr'ation be more glorious than the former, the minister is more holy. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
- MINIUM. *n. f.* [Latin.]  
Melt lead in a broad earthen vessel unglazed, and stir it continually till it be calcined into a grey powder; this is called the calx of lead; continue the fire, stirring it in the same manner, and it becomes yellow; in this state it is used in painting, and is called mafficot or mafficot; after this put it into a reverberatory furnace, and it will calcine further, and become of a fine red, which is the common minium or red lead: among the ancients minium was the name for cinnabar: the modern minium is used externally, and is excellent in cleansing and healing old ulcers. *Hill's Mat. Med.*
- MINISTRY. *n. f.* [contracted from *ministry*; *ministerium*, Lat.]  
1. Office; service.  
So far is an indistinction of all persons, and, by consequence, an anarchy of all things, so far from being agreeable to the will of God, declared in his great household, the world, and especially in all the ministries of his proper household the church, that there was never yet any time, I believe, since it was a number, when some of its members were not more sacred than others. *Sprat's Sermons.*
2. Office of one set apart to preach; ecclesiastical function.  
Their ministry perform'd, and race well run,  
Their doctrine and their story written left,  
They die. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*  
Saint Paul was miraculously called to the ministry of the gospel, and had the whole doctrine of the gospel from God by immediate revelation; and was appointed the apostle of the Gentiles for propagating it in the heathen world. *Locke.*
3. Agency; interposition.  
The natural world he made after a miraculous manner; but directs the affairs of it ever since by standing rules, and the ordinary ministry of second causes. *Atterbury.*  
The poets introduced the ministry of the gods, and taught the separate existence of human souls. *Bentley's Sermons.*
4. Business.  
He safe from loud alarms,  
Abhor'd the wicked ministry of arms. *Dryden's En.*
5. Persons employed in the public affairs of a state.  
I converse in full freedom with many considerable men of both parties; and if not in equal number, it is purely accidental, as happening to have made acquaintance at court more under one ministry than another. *Swift.*
- MINNOCK. *n. f.* Of this word I know not the precise meaning. It is not unlikely that *minnock* and *minx* are originally the same word.  
An ass's hole I fixed on his head;  
Anon his Thistle must be answered,  
And forth my minnock comes. *Shaksp. As You Like It.*
- MINNOW. *n. f.* [*minneus*, French.] A very small fish; a pink: a corruption of *minim*, which see.  
Hear you this triton of the minnows?  
The minnow, when he is in perfect season, and not sick, which is only presently after spawning, hath a kind of dappled or waved colour, like a panther, on his sides, inclining to a greenish and sky-colour, his belly being milk-white, and his back almost black or blackish: he is a sharp biter at a small worm in hot weather, and in the Spring they make excellent minnow tangles; for being washed well in salt, and their heads and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, being fried with yolks of eggs, primroses and tansy. *Walton's Angler.*  
The nimble turning of the minnow is the perfection of minnow fishing. *Walton's Angler.*
- MINOR. *adj.* [Latin.]  
1. Petty; inconsiderable.  
If there are petty errors and minor lapses, not considerably injurious unto faith, yet is it not safe to condemn inferior fallacies. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*
2. Less; smaller.  
They altered this custom from cases of high concernment to the most trivial debates, the minor part ordinarily entering their protest. *Clarendon.*  
The difference of a third part in so large and collective an account is not strange, if we consider how differently they are set forth in minor and less mistakeable numbers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- MINOR. *n. f.*  
1. One under age; one whose youth cannot yet allow him to manage his own affairs.

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- King Richard the Second, the first ten years of his reign; was a minor. *Davies on Ireland.*  
He and his mule might be minors, but the liberties are full grown. *Collier's View of the Stage.*
- Long as the year's dull circle seems to run,  
When the brisk minor pants for twenty-one. *Pope.*  
The noblest blood of England having been shed in the grand rebellion, many great families became extinct, or supported only by minors. *Swift.*  
A minor or infant cannot be said to be contumacious, because he cannot appear as a defendant in court, but by his guardian. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
2. The second or particular proposition in the syllogism.  
The second or minor proposition was, that this kingdom hath cause of just fear of overthrow from Spain. *Bacon.*  
He supposed that a philosopher's brain was like a forest; where ideas are ranged like animals of several kinds; that the major is the male, the minor the female, which copulate by the middle term, and engender the conclusion. *Arbutnot.*
- TO MINORATE. *v. a.* [from *minor*, Lat.] To lessen; to diminish. A word not yet admitted into the language.  
This it doth not only by the advantageous assistance of a tube, but by shewing in what degrees distance minorates the object. *Glanville's Scept.*
- MINORATION. *n. f.* [from *minorare*.] The act of lessening; diminution; decrease. A word not admitted.  
Bodies emit virtue without abatement of weight, as is most evident in the loadstone, whose efficiencies are communicable without a minoration of gravity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
We hope the mercies of God will consider our degenerated integrity unto some minoration of our offences. *Brown.*
- MINORITY. *n. f.* [*minorité*, Fr. from *minor*, Latin.]  
1. The state of being under age.  
I mov'd the king, my master, to speak in the behalf of my daughter, in the minority of them both. *Shaksp. As You Like It.*  
He is young, and his minority  
Is put into the trust of Richard Gloster. *Shaksp. As You Like It.*  
These changes in religion should be staid, until the king were of years to govern by himself: this the people apprehending worse than it was, a question was raised, whether, during the king's minority, such alterations might be made or no. *Howard's Edw. VI.*  
Henry the Eighth, doubting he might die in the minority of his son, procured an act to pass, that no statute made during the minority of the king should bind him or his successors, except it were confirmed by the king at his full age. But the first act that passed in king Edward the Sixth's time, was a repeal of that former act; at which time nevertheless the king was minor. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
If there be evidence, that it is not many ages since nature was in her minority, this may be taken for a good proof that she is not eternal. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*  
Their counsels are warlike and ambitious, though something tempered by the minority of their king. *Temple.*
2. The state of being less.  
From this narrow time of gestation may ensue a minority, or smallness in the exclusion. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*
3. The smaller number: as, the minority held for that question in opposition to the majority.
- MINOTAUR. *n. f.* [*minotaure*, French; *minos* and *taurus*.] A monster invented by the poets, half man and half bull, kept in Dædalus's labyrinth.  
Thou may'st not wander in that labyrinth,  
There minotaurs, and ugly treasons lurk. *Shaksp. As You Like It.*
- MINSTER. *n. f.* [*munstre*, Saxon.] A monastery; an ecclesiastical fraternity; a cathedral church. The word is yet retained at York and Lichfield.  
MINSTREL. *n. f.* [*menstrel*, Spanish; *menestrallus*, low Latin.] A musician; one who plays upon instruments.  
Hark how the minstrel's 'gin to shrill aloud  
Their merry musick that rebounds from far,  
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling croud,  
That well agree withouten breach or jar. *Spenser's Epithal.*  
I will give you the minstrel.  
—Then I will give you the serving creature. *Shaksp. As You Like It.*  
I to the vulgar am become a jest;  
Esteemed as a minstrel at a feast. *Sandys's Paraphrase.*
- These fellows  
Were once the minstrels of a country show;  
Follow'd the prizes through each paltry town,  
By trumpet-cheeks and bloated faces known.  
Often our fees and poets have confest'd,  
That musick's force can tame the furious beast;  
His rage, the lion drop his crested mane,  
Attentive to the song; the lynx forget  
His wrath to man, and lick the minstrel's feet. *Prior.*
- MINSTRELSEY. *n. f.* [from *minstrel*.]  
1. Musick; instrumental harmony.  
Apollo's self will envy at his play,  
And all the world applaud his minstrelsey. *Davies.*  
That